

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended by rewriting claim 23, claims 1-22 and 24 -26 are unchanged.

Claims 1 to 26 remain in the application.

REMARKSClaim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 23- 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite.

Claim 23 has been amended so that "obtaining automatically said identifier" has been replaced with "obtaining automatically an identifier": This amendment therefore corrects the insufficient antecedent basis rejection of claim 23. Furthermore, in view of the amendment to claim 23 the rejection regarding lack of antecedent basis no longer applies to claims 24-26.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1 to 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al (U.S. Publication No. 200200830081A1) in view of Ahmad (U.S. Patent No.5,925,127), and further in view of Pruitt et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,597,907).

The invention as claimed by applicant provides for obtaining and validating an identifier as unique within an ad-hoc network of machines, the identifier being associated with an application for execution on one or more of the machines. In claim 1, the identifier is obtained automatically from a shared resource pool of the network and the identifier is validated as unique to the application if an invalidation message is not received within a predefined time period.

The examiner has confirmed in his detailed action that *Smith et al* as modified by the teachings *Ahmad* do not teach "obtaining automatically" the identifier "from a shared resource pool of the network". The examiner, however, has further modified the teachings of *Smith et al* by including the teachings of *Pruitt et al* and then concluding that claim 1 is unpatentable. The

examiner reaches this conclusion by referring to the abstract, column 3, lines 40-44, column 11, lines 58-65 and column 12, lines 29-36 of *Pruitt et al.* In this regard the examiner is of the opinion that the "deadlock resource" mentioned in *Pruitt et al* is analogous with "the identifier" as claimed in applicants claim 1.

We respectfully disagree with the examiner's analysis. In *Pruitt et al* the "deadlock resource" is actually a "deadlock resource condition" and at the beginning of the abstract it is stated "A deadlock resource condition in a pool of shared resources is detected". At column 3, lines 40-44 it is stated "Therefore, in the light of the deficiencies of existing approaches, there is a need for a detection mechanism that can detect a deadlock resource condition". At column 11, lines 58-65 it is stated "Alternatively, the exemplary wireless system may automatically initiate system or application software that performs similar functions in response to detection of a deadlock resource condition....." Again at column 12, lines 29-36 it is stated "Because these shared resources 250, 270, 280, 290, and 300 are susceptible to problems similar to those discussed above, namely deadlock resource conditions, these principles of the present invention may be advantageously utilized to detect a deadlock resource condition in a pool of shared resource"

From the above, it is clear *Pruitt et al* does not disclose a method, device, machine, system or means for obtaining automatically the identifier as recited in applicants claim 1. What is described in *Pruitt et al* is the automatic detection of a deadlock condition whereas the identifier in applicant's claim 1 is an identifier that is associated with an application, such an identifier is discussed on page 7, lines 18-22 of applicant's specification "the machine-A 110 obtains the identifier ID, for example by use of a pseudo-random number generator.....In this specific example, however, the identifier ID is provided by the application 320". Hence, *Smith*

et al as modified by *Ahmad*, and further modified by *Pruitt et al* would not result in the invention as claimed in applicant's claim1. The combined teachings of *smith et al*, *Ahmad* and *Pruitt et al* at best would result in an application being useable for a user specified time period in which a deadlock resource condition can be automatically detected. It is therefore clear that the combined teachings of *smith et al*, *Ahmad* and *Pruitt et al* at least do not describe "obtaining automatically said identifier from a shared resource pool of the network....." nor do they describe validating said identifier as unique to said application if an invalidation message is not received within a predefined time period". It is therefore submitted that claim 1 is patentable over *Smith et al* as modified by *Ahmad*, and further modified by *Pruitt et al*

As to independent claims 12 and 23, the above remarks also apply and therefore it is submitted that independent claims 12 and 23 are patentable over *Smith et al* as modified by *Ahmad*, and further modified by *Pruitt et al*.

As to claims 2-11, claims 13- 22, and claims 24-26 it is submitted that since these claims depend from one of the above mentioned independent claims then these claims should be allowed.

In view of the amendments to claim 23 and the above, remarks, this application is believed to be in proper form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

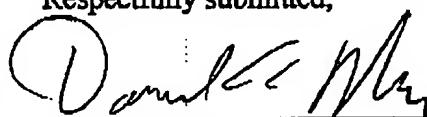
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